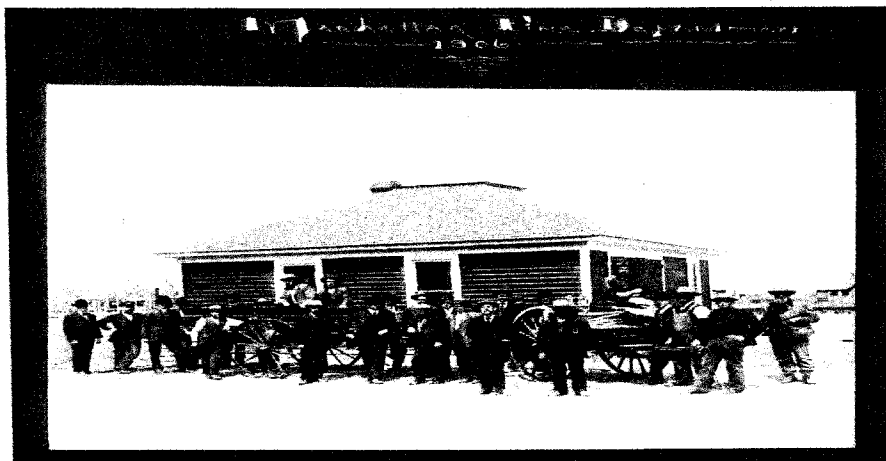


EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1.27.11
HB 150



MANHATTAN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 911
MANHATTAN, MONTANA 59741
406-284-6224

Mr., Chairman, Members of the Local Government Committee:

At the January 12, 2011 Manhattan Rural Fire District Board of Trustees meeting, which was advertised in accordance with the open meetings requirements (and no members of the public were present), HB 150 was discussed. After discussion a vote was taken in which the Trustees unanimously opposed HB150.

The Board takes great pride in disseminating information to keep the public informed and as such see no need in creating another level of bureaucracy and at a substantial cost to the District with additional annual reporting requirements.

We are fortunate to have an excellent relationship with the Town of Manhattan which provides some funding for fire department operations. The Manhattan Volunteer Fire Department operates seamlessly as a single department even though some funds are provided by the Town and some by the District. What will be the ramifications of HB 150 if passed to this successful and economical form of operation?

As a Board, each Trustee is elected by the voters of the Manhattan Rural Fire District. Why are we, as fire districts, being singled out for additional reporting requirements?

Lastly, as the Manhattan Volunteer Fire Department lies exclusively in House District 69 (Washburn) we are puzzled and concerned as to why he has chosen to file this bill. At no time has he contacted our office regarding this bill, requested information, or attended a meeting of the Board of Trustees.

We urge you to vote against this bill.

Sincerely,

MANHATTAN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President of the Rural Board for Manhattan

Audrey Ulmen, Secretary